



**Office of the Attorney General  
Paul G. Summers**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Commissioner Paula Flowers**

**CONSUMER ALERT**

Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 20207 Nashville, TN 37202-0207

Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Division of Consumer Affairs  
500 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 19, 2005  
Number #05-17

CONTACT:  
Sharon Curtis-Flair  
(615) 741-5860

**SCAM ARTISTS TARGETING JOB HUNTERS ONLINE**

Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers is urging Tennesseans to be on the lookout for a scam targeting job hunters who post their resumes online. Tennessee is one of 18 states so far where people have reported the scam artists are sending counterfeit checks from the State of Arkansas, asking them to cash the checks and wire the potential "employer" most of the money.

Arkansas officials are investigating the illegal operation, which is believed to be operating from Turkey and possibly Latvia. Luring job seekers with the promise of a job in Europe, the scam artists send out the counterfeit checks, explaining the company needs help cashing the checks from one of its "clients," the State of Arkansas.

"These unscrupulous people are hoping you will cash the counterfeit checks and send the money to them before you discover the checks are fake," General Summers said. "These scam artists are preying on vulnerable people who are just trying to find a job."

The con artists appear to be targeting job hunters who post resumes online. Soon after a consumer posts a resume, he or she receives an e-mail from someone claiming to represent "Void Computers Inc." The job seeker is welcomed as a new employee of the company. The "company" then sends the fake checks in the target's name, with instructions to cash the checks and wire the money to an address in Latvia, minus a 10 percent fee the consumer may keep.

About 10 days later, the consumer receives two counterfeit State of Arkansas checks mailed from Turkey totaling \$5,200, with the consumer's own name and address printed on them. The consumer is encouraged to avoid banks, and instead go to a check-casher, liquor store, or other similar business. Some consumers have cashed the checks; other consumers and business owners have grown suspicious and contacted state or local officials.

Arkansas officials say the checks are altered, but appear to have been copied from one legitimate State of Arkansas check. Although some checks have been cashed, none has been withdrawn from the State of Arkansas.

Reports of the forged checks have come from Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Consumers may file a complaint of a suspicious check by contacting the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs at [www.state.tn.us/consumer](http://www.state.tn.us/consumer) or call 1-800-342-8385 or the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).